



**EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT CABINET
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UPDATE

SERVICE FEE MEMORANDUM

MY-LB-04-05-13

TO: Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) Staff
Branch Managers, Counselors, and Assistants
CDPVTC Director, Case Management Director, and Counselors
Office for the Blind (OFB) Staff
Vanessa Jones, Client Assistance Program (CAP)

FROM: Mindy Yates, Staff Advisor
Systems and Fiscal Management Branch

Lori Bishop, Program Administrator
Hard of Hearing & Late Deafened Services

DATE: October 1, 2013

REVISIONS: October 1, 2013
REVISIONS: September 30, 2010
UPDATE: March 15, 2010
PREVIOUS UPDATE: February 15, 2007
REVISIONS: October 1, 2015 Pat Selch

RE: **Hearing Aids and ALD's – Rehabilitation Technology**

Open Fit/Receiver in the Ear (RITE)/BiCROS/Post Auricle Hearing Aids.

Exceptions are no longer needed for these types of hearing aids as long as they are still within VR price guidelines. They are considered to be typical hearing aid technology.

Cost Participation

Hearing Aids and Assistive Listening Devices are Rehabilitation Technology and are not subject to cost sharing. The dispensing fee however is diagnosis and treatment and will be therefore subject to cost participation.

Hearing Aid Guidelines

A comprehensive audiometric evaluation (92557) and hearing aid evaluation (92590 or 92591) can only be provided by a licensed/board certified audiologist. Provision by a licensed professional other than an audiologist will require an exception. Please note that only an audiologist can perform and bill for comprehensive audiometric evaluation (92557). An outcome measurement must be performed to validate the purchase of technology (i.e. aided audiogram, real ear, aided speech or the hearing aid diary, testing in noise, etc). An evaluation of the auditory system from a physician skilled in the diseases of the ear (otolaryngologist) should be provided when symptoms of ear pathology and/or conductive hearing loss are present.

A communication assessment must be completed by a Communication Specialist before the purchase of hearing aids. The communication assessment should cover communication difficulties in basic areas such as face-to-face communications, telephone communications, environmental sounds and situations, small group and large group situations and electronic media/special equipment in settings such as work, school/home, etc. This information is helpful to determine the appropriate hearing aid circuitry and assistive devices needed in order to meet the consumer's communication demands on the job.



SERVICE FEE MEMO (UPDATE – Hearing Aid Guidelines)

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October 1, 2013

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Effective 10/1/2013 Hearing aids are under rehabilitation technology and not based on financial need and should be purchased out of the counselor's regular budget using expenditure category code 92G. The Expenditure Category Code for hearing aid accessories is 92H (dry n' store, batteries, etc.). The following Expenditure Category Codes remain under Rehabilitation Technology (RT) and will also be purchased out of counselor's regular budget. Please use these codes when purchasing rehabilitation technology for deaf or hard of hearing consumers.

Effective 10-1-2015

While hearing aids will remain under rehabilitation technology the hearing aid dispensing fee will change. The dispensing fee will be considered "diagnosis and treatment" and as such will be subject to cost participation. This service is typically provided following the development of the IPE and must be reflected on the IPE. On rare occasions there may be a reason to provide the hearing aids and dispensing fee prior to development of the IPE to complete the assessment for eligibility or plan development but that will require justification. The expenditure for the dispensing fee will be changed to 24F to reflect under diagnosis and treatment.

92 D	Telecommunication Devices (for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing) phones, phone amplifiers	Examples: TDD, amplified
92 E	Assistive Listening Devices - (ALDS) (Refer to SFM for ALD's)	
92 F	Alerting Devices (for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing) flashing/vibrating phone or door signalers (when appropriate and justified).	Examples: flashing/vibrating alarm clocks,

OVR will only purchase BTE or Full Shell ITE hearing aids that are FM/ALD ready or compatible (i.e. wireless connectivity or manual [not auto] telecoil). The maximum allowable fee for a hearing aid (conventional, programmable, digital) is \$800.00 which shall include the cost of the hearing aid, any additional circuitry needed, and FM compatible option (wireless connectivity or telecoil). The appropriate dispensing fee, earmold (BTE only), and shipping may be added to the cost of the hearing aid.

Use code 00080 for exceptions. Exceptions require DHHS Branch approval prior to purchasing the hearing aid. To request an exception, send the exception form, hearing test, hearing aid recommendation, and communication assessment to Program Administrator of Hard of Hearing/Late Deafened Services in Central Office for approval. Once approval has been obtained, then you must indicate on the description line on the pay authorization the specific exception (i.e. ITC, CIC, or BTE/ITE hearing aid if provided by a vendor outside the vendor list).

OVR has price agreements with Oticon, Phonak, Siemens, Starkey, and Widex (includes hearing aid accessories and FM/ALD's). Please note extended warranties are included in agreements. A hearing aid recommendation from any other manufacturer requires an exception. Vendors will attach a VR authorization to hearing aid orders to verify the VR discount to the manufacturer.

When OVR is not participating in the cost of a consumer's hearing aid, the consumer must purchase the hearing aid directly from the vendor at their cost.

Hearing aid vendors working with OVR consumers who have hearing aid insurance shall file and reimburse OVR for services.

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FEE SCHEDULE

Code	Procedure	Allowable Rate
00073	Conventional Hearing Aid (Not to exceed \$800.00) (Use OVR price list: Oticon, Phonak, Siemens, or Starkey)	Enter OVR Price Exp code 92G BUN caseload
00074	Programmable/Digital BTE/ITE Hearing Aid (Not to Exceed \$800.00) (Use OVR price list: Oticon, Phonak, Siemens, or Starkey)	Enter OVR Price Exp Cat 92G BUN caseload
00077	Original Custom Earmold (BTE only)	\$ 50.00 Exp Cat 92G BUN caseload
00078	Dispensing Fee Per Standard Conventional Aid (Up to 6 visits during first year for adjustments)	\$150.00 Exp Cat 24F BUN caseload
00079	Dispensing Fee Per Programmable/Digital Aid (Up to 6 visits during first year for adjustments)	\$360.00 Exp Cat 24F BUN caseload
*00080	Hearing Aid Exceptions – Require DHHS Brand approval (i.e., ITC or CIC or BTE or Full Shell ITE Conventional And/or Digital hearing aids more than \$800.00 or that are NOT on the OVR price list).	By Report Exp Code 92G BUN caseload